

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 200252Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3865

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMIPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3152

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

NOFORN

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO
19 MARCH 1975, REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO. QUOTE.

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0109

EXDIS/NOFRON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS MILI VS

SUBJECT: NVA/VC INTENTIONS IN DELTA?

1. NVA/VC ACTIONS IN MR4 OVER PAST 2-3 WEEKS SEEM BEST
EXPLAINED AS EFFORT TIE-DOWN THREE ARVN DIVISIONS TO
PREVENT THEIR REDEPLOYMENT TO OTHER REGIONS. THREATENING
GESTURES TOWARDS CAN THO AND MOC HOA, AGGRESSIVE MOVES
OF D-1 AND D-3 REGIMENTS IN VINH LONG, AND MOVE OF DT-1
REGIMENT IN CHO LACH (D) OF VINH LONG SEEM FORM PATTERN
WHICH SUPPORTS THIS INTERPRETATION. AVOIDANCE OF BATTLE
BY NVA/VC MAIN FORCE UNITS FURTHER SUGGESTS A STRATEGY
OF THREATENING "FORCE IN BEING." THIS EMINENTLY EFFECTIVE
TACTIC, IF PURPOSE IS TO TIE-DOWN ARVN. ENGAGEMENT, ON OTHER
HAND, RISKS HEAVY CASUALTIES AND POSSIBLE LOSS OF CREDIBILITY
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AS THREAT.

2. HAD NVA/VC INTENDED SERIOUS EFFORT TO CAPTURE HARD TARGET
LIKE MOC HOA THEY SURELY WOULD NOT HAVE REDEPLOYED ONE OF NVA
5TH DIVISION'S REGIMENTS, THE E-3, TO TAY NINH AREA.
MOREOVER, STRENGTH OF NVA/VC IN MR4, DESPITE REPORTS OF
SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF REINFORCEMENT, DOES NOT SUGGEST
PREPARATION FOR ALLOUT OFFENSIVE AS SEEMS CASE IN OTHER
MR'S. CURRENT BALANCE OF FORCES IN MR4 NOW FAVORS GVN.
WITHOUT ADDITIONAL SUBSTANTIAL REINFORCEMENTS, NVA/VC
LARGE-SCALE OFFENSIVE IN THE REGION WOULD BE COSTLY AND
COULD RESULT IN SITUATION OF INCREASED GVN PREPONDERANCE
OF POWER AND ABILITY TO REDEPLOY SOME ARVN UNITS. THUS
A WEIGHING OF ALL EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO ME SUGGEST DIVERSION
RATHER THAN ALLOUT OFFENSIVE IS BASIS OF CURRENT
NVA/VC ACTIONS IN MR4. SIGNED MCNAMARA. UNQUOTE.
LEHMANN

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